

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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7. (Amended) A composition comprising an HFE polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a full length, wild-type human β_2m .

8. (Amended) A composition comprising an HFE polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a full length, wild-type human β_2m .

9. (Amended) A composition comprising an HFE polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and a full length, wild-type human β_2m .

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims. The claims have been amended, without prejudice, to clearly and distinctly claim what Applicants regard as the invention. The amendments do not introduce new matter, and they are fully supported by the claims as originally filed. Entry pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 1.111 is respectfully requested. The claims as currently pending are attached hereto as *Appendix B*.

Further, Applicants note that both the restriction requirement issued on December 3, 2002 and the species election requirement indicate that Claims 1-6 are pending, while in fact Claims 1-6 had been cancelled in a preliminary amendment filed March 4, 2002, and replaced by new Claims 7-9. It is respectfully requested that the office enter the March 4, 2002 amendment.